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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT Military Units in the Vicinity of
Khaskovo

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. Unidentified Infantry Division at Khaskovo:

- a. The troops of this division are garrisoned on the Greek border and, in an emergency, will fall back behind the border. The division is dependent on the Second Army of Plovdiv. Headquarters is in Khaskovo, facing the gymnasium, adjacent to the north side of the stream which flows through the town.

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- b. Commanding Officer: Colonel Dupenov (fmu)

- c. Soviet Advisor: Colonel Voronkin (fmu).

- d. Strength: About 30,000.

- e. Table of Organization (known):

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1) Tank Regiment | Khaskovo |
| 2) Field Artillery Regiment | Khaskovo |
| 3) Antiaircraft Field Artillery Regiment | Khaskovo |
| 4) Signal Regiment | Khaskovo |
| 5) Bridge and Combat Engineer Regiment | Khaskovo |
| 6) 31st Infantry Regiment | Khaskovo |
| 7) Parachute Battalion | Khaskovo |
| 8) Chemical Battalion | Khaskovo |

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|--|-----------|
| 9) Sniper Battalion | Khaskovo |
| 10) Tank Regiment | Kharmanli |
| 11) Field Artillery Regiment | Kharmanli |
| 12) Antiaircraft Field Artillery Battalion | Kharmanli |
| 13) Signal Battalion | Kharmanli |
| 14) Infantry Regiment | Kharmanli |
| 15) Tank Regiment | Maritsa |
| 16) Field Artillery Regiment | Maritsa |
| 17) Antiaircraft Field Artillery Battalion | Maritsa |
| 18) Signal Battalion | Maritsa |
| 19) Infantry Regiment | Maritsa |

2. 31st Infantry Regiment at Khaskovo:

- a. The regiment was motorized September 1955 and each platoon was given a light truck. Motorization was apparently extended to the entire Bulgarian army.
- b. Quarters: In the eastern zone of Khaskovo, 80 meters north of the Istanbul-Sofia-Belgrade international highway, 130 meters north of the Teachers Training School.
- c. Military Post Office: 50X1-HUM
- d. Total Strength: Varies between 1,300 and 1,600 officers and men.
- e. Table of Organization:
 - 1) Regimental headquarters with various bureaus. The Soviet Military Advisor was abolished in 1955; prior to that time, there was such an advisor at every regiment and battalion headquarters of the Bulgarian army.
 - 2) Regimental detachments:
 - a) Headquarters Signal Platoon.
 - b) Signal Company for dependent detachments.
 - c) Combat Engineer Platoon for Regimental Headquarters.
 - d) Bridge Engineer Platoon for Regimental Headquarters.
 - e) Combat and Bridge Engineer Company for the detachments.
 - f) Chemical Platoon for the Regimental Headquarters.
 - g) Service Company.

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- h) Medical Corps Company.
 - i) Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion.
 - j) Dependent Battalions.
 - k) Two Rifle Battalions.
 - l) One Mixed Artillery Battalion.
- f. Commanding Officer:
- 1) 1955: Major Stoyanov (fnu).
 - 2) 1956: Lt. Colonel Dislyanov (fnu) [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- g. Details of regimental detachments:
- 1) Signal Platoon: Personnel strength is 12 to 15. The platoon is equipped with Soviet radio sets, models RB, A7A, A7B, one telephone switchboard, and field telephones. The platoon is employed exclusively for the regimental headquarters.
 - 2) Signal Company: Strength, about 40. Same equipment as Headquarters Signal Platoon. At all times in the field, the company is assigned to the two rifle battalions and the Mixed Artillery Battalion.
 - 3) Combat Engineer Platoon: Strength, about 20. Equipped with wooden antipersonnel mines, metal antitank mines, barbed wire, mine detectors, digging equipment, chain saws, planks, demountable tents for headquarters. Employment governed by requirements of regimental headquarters; i.e. removing mines from around the CP; digging and connecting trenches; laying mines or constructing defensive barriers for the CP; erecting tents for the CP, etc.
 - 4) Combat-Bridge Engineer Company: Strength, about 80. Equipped similarly with the Combat Engineer Platoon, except organizational tents are for use of the detachment only; equipment for small bridges (wood and pneumatic floats); one compressor. During operations, one platoon is assigned to each rifle battalion and to the Mixed Artillery Battalion.
 - 5) Bridge Engineer Platoon: Strength, about 15. Equipped with four or five pneumatic boats with a capacity of six persons each; carpenter tools. Employed exclusively according to requirements of regimental headquarters -- ferrying officers across streams; construction and repair of foot bridges.
 - 6) Chemical Platoon: Strength, 12 to 15. Equipped with gas masks, fireproof coveralls, first-aid equipment for gassed persons (to be distributed to officers on duty at regimental headquarters), an autoclave to disinfect clothing, cans of creoline, cans with spray attachments for disinfecting contaminated material, water-purification equipment. Employment governed by requirements of regimental headquarters.
 - 7) Chemical Company: Strength, about 40. Equipped with portable equipment to disinfect contaminated objects and terrain, three motor trucks with barrels of disinfectants, three large autoclaves for disinfecting clothing, three trucks with smoke-making equipment, and

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an undetermined number of smoke-producing cans.

- 8) Medical Company: Includes all Medical Corps personnel of the regiment including: One major (commanding), two doctors (lieutenants), one dentist (captain), three graduate nurses (noncommissioned officers), and six privates or corporals as nurses aids. Equipment includes one ambulance and one first-aid station with 5-6 beds.
- 9) Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion: Formed in the summer of 1955 and used exclusively to defend regimental headquarters. Strength, about 110. Organization:
 - a) Headquarters Section.
 - b) 12.7 mm battery.
 - c) 20 mm battery.
 - d) 37 mm battery.

Commanding Officer is Captain Ilchev; Deputy Commander is a 1st Lieutenant; Political Officer is a major.

- 10) Table of Organization of components within Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion:
 - a) Headquarters Section: Commanded by a lieutenant. Strength -- (total of ten) two men to spot and identify aircraft; one man to operate range finder; one telephone operator; two radio operators; one man with compass; driver for Molotov truck; two men in reserve.
 - b) 12.7 mm Battery: Commanded by a 1st lieutenant; Deputy Commander -- a 2nd lieutenant. Strength -- about 25. Components -- two platoons, each with three squads. Armament -- six 12.7 mm machine guns. Transport -- one truck for each two machine guns.
 - c) 20 mm Battery: Commanded by a 1st lieutenant; Deputy Commander -- a 2nd lieutenant. Strength -- about 30. Components -- two platoons, each with two guns. Armament -- four 20 mm machine guns, German war booty. Transport -- each gun towed by a ZIS light truck; a fifth truck carries the rangefinder and battalion headquarters equipment.
 - d) 37 mm Battery: Commanded by a 1st lieutenant; Deputy Commander -- a 2nd lieutenant. Components -- Battery Headquarters Squad, with two spotters, one man with rangefinder, one telephone operator, and two radio operators; two platoons, commanded by an officer, and each with two squads. Armament -- four 37 mm antiaircraft guns, believed to be of Soviet manufacture. Transport -- towed by German MAN trucks.
- 11) Mixed Artillery Battalion: Includes a battalion headquarters, a headquarters platoon, two batteries of 120 mm mortars, one antitank battery with 45 mm guns, and one armored company. Commanded by Major Minchev (fmu). Components equipped as follows:
 - a) Mortar Batteries: Each equipped with six 120 mm mortars towed by Steyr trucks.

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- b) Antitank battery: Equipped with four 45 mm guns towed by Steyr trucks.
- c) Armored company: Equipped with two T-34 tanks with 76 mm gun; three SU assault guns, 18-20 tons, with presumably 76 mm guns, of Soviet manufacture.
- 12) 1st Rifle Battalion: Strength - about 200. Components - one rifle company, one rifle-machine gun company, one rifle-mortar company. Details of components are as follows:
- a) Rifle Company: Strength - about 50. Components - a light machine gun platoon with three squads, each squad equipped with two automatic rifles; submachine gun platoon; a rifle platoon armed with automatic carbines; an antitank rocket launcher squad with two launchers. All automatic weapons were replaced in October 1956. These replacements were reportedly either new types of Soviet weapons made in Czechoslovakia and Poland, or were Polish-made weapons, of joint Czech-Polish-Soviet production. Old individual weapons were 5-shot semiautomatic carbines, called "Vintovka," of German manufacture. The present weapons are 10-shot automatic carbines.
- b) Rifle-Machine Gun Company: Strength - about 50. Components - one rifle platoon with carbines; two machine gun platoons, each with three squads, with two machine guns per squad. Armament - 12 machine guns of unidentified class, supplied in October 1956 to replace the Maxim Sokolov machine guns.
- c) Rifle-Mortar Company: Strength - about 60. Components - one rifle platoon with individual weapons only; one light machine gun platoon with six guns; one mortar platoon with four 82 mm mortars.
- d) Antitank rocket launchers are reportedly limited to the 1st Battalion, and are distributed as follows: One platoon with six launchers is attached to one company, and one squad with two launchers is attached to the other two companies.
- e) Individual "Antiatomic" Equipment: Each soldier in the Battalion is equipped with an antiatomic cloak consisting of a raincoat, with hood, reaching to the calf of the leg and made of impregnated, rubberized cloth; antiatomic shoes; antiatomic gloves; an antiatomic mask, differing from the regular gas mask by covering the head, neck and throat with a cloth made from white, impregnated rubber.
- h. Regimental Services:
- 1) Medical: Officers include a major (the commanding officer), one dentist (captain), and two doctors (2nd lieutenants). The infirmary includes five to six beds for light cases, an analysis room, and a dental office.
- 2) Motor vehicles: Shops are staffed by three officers, three civilians, and seven to eight soldiers. Equipment includes five to six machine tools. Shop handles first echelon repairs to light motor vehicles. Vehicles - each platoon has one vehicle (about 80 vehicles in all). Makes include Molotov, ZIS, Steyr, and MAN.

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- 1) Garage, Antiaircraft guns, and repair shop; shed about 120 by 100 by 10 meters; side marked "1A" on sketch, is 2-story for half the length and this is used as the motor vehicle repair shop and armorer shop of the Regiment.
- 2) Ammunition dump; masonry structure about 6 by 4 meters with embankment.
- 3) Garage for field kitchens; masonry shed about 40 by 10 meters; ten field kitchens and the ZIS trucks to tow them.
- 4) Underground gasoline depot; fuel contained in 300-liter barrels.
- 5) Services (tailor, shoemaker, etc.) workshops; masonry structure about 20 by 6 meters.
- 6) Gymnasium; masonry structure about 30 by 10 meters; vaulted roof covered with wire glass.
- 7) Regimental headquarters; 2-story villa about 30 by 8 meters; radio station on ground floor.
- 8) Quarters for battalion and company officers; 2-story building about 60 by 60 by 10 meters; soldiers' club on the first floor and racks for individual and unit weapons in the halls.
- 9) Food and clothing warehouse; 2 stories about 30 by 10 meters.
- 10) Main entrance; central gate (two parts, metal) and side gate.
- 11) Guard post.
- 12) Infirmary; structure about 18 by 6 meters.
- 13) Quarters and messhall of the Mixed Artillery Battalion; 2-story building with basement about 80 by 15 meters.
- 14) Garage and storage of guns of the Mixed Artillery Battalion; masonry building about 40 by 10 meters.
- 15) Officers' club and movie hall for the troops; 2-story building about 30 by 30 by 8 meters.
- 16) Fencing: Wall about two meters high.
- 17) Fencing: Barbed wire on masonry posts about one meter high.
- 18) Wagon gate.
- 19) Club for the garrison officers; 2-story building about 40 by 40 by 10 meters in a garden about 80 by 80 meters.
- 20) Secondary technical mining school; area about 300 by 300 meters.
- 21) TB clinic; 2-stories about 50 by 15 meters.

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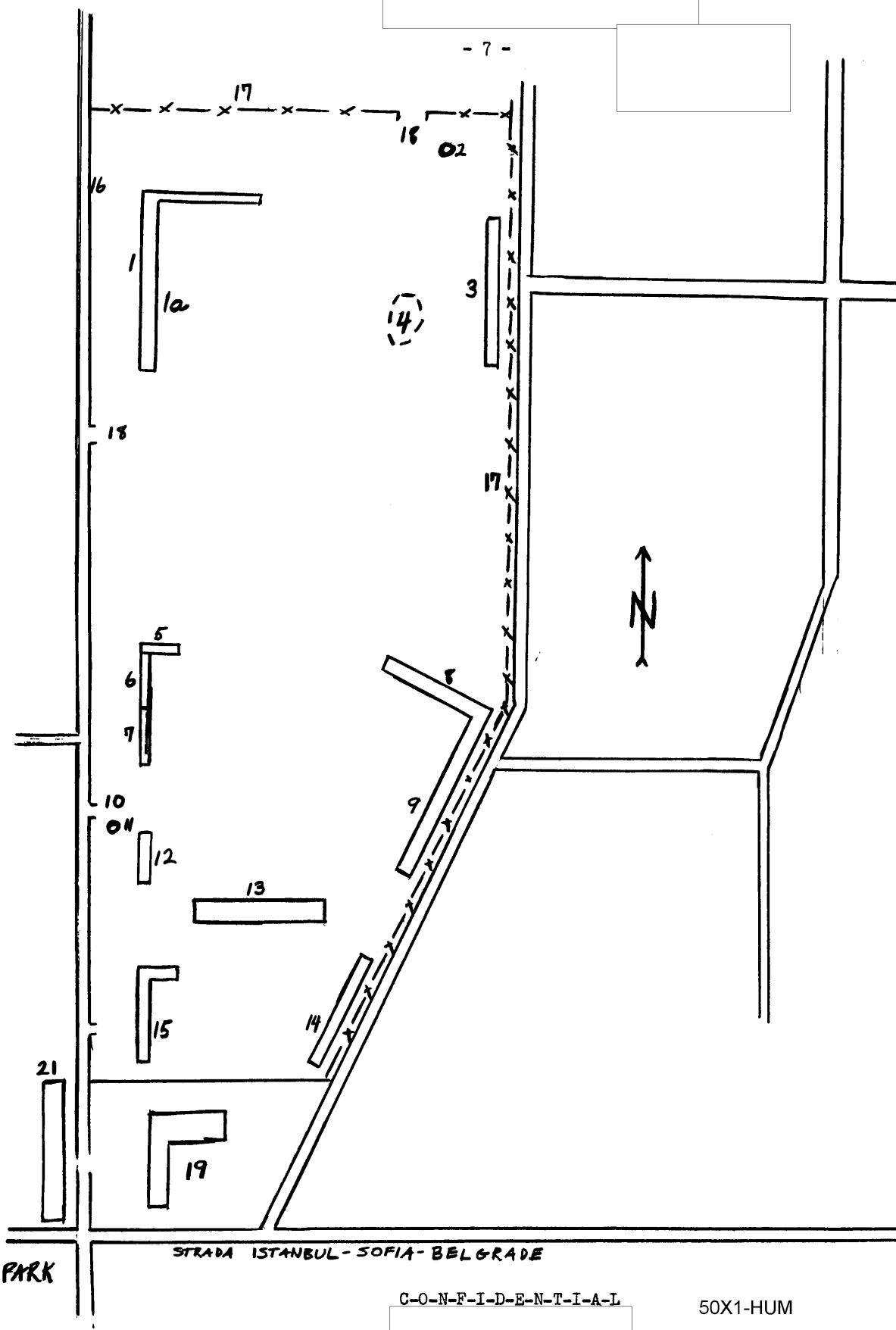
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3. Signal Regiment at Khaskovo:

- a. Quarters: Adjacent to the east side of the Istanbul-Sofia international highway; abuts on the north side the barracks of the Field Artillery Regiment.
- b. The Signal Regiment is subordinate to an unidentified Infantry Division with headquarters in Khaskovo.
- c. On maneuvers, the regiment furnishes a radio station mounted on an open vehicle, similar to a Command Car, to the headquarters of each regiment, battalion, and autonomous groups of the division.
- d. Equipment: During a parade, informant observed about a dozen radios mounted on trucks and an equal number on jeeps. Most of the men carried radios on their chests or backs. Most of the equipment was probably R.B. make.

4. Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment at Khaskovo:

- a. Quarters: Barracks located 80 meters northeast of the barracks of the 31st Infantry Regiment.
- b. The regiment is subordinate to the unidentified Infantry Division in Khaskovo.
- c. Strength and Table of Organization: About 800 men. Components include three battalions, each with three batteries; each battery with four guns.
- d. Armament includes 37 mm, 85 mm, and 120-130 mm guns.
- e. Fire Direction: Only the batteries with 120-130 mm guns have radar and central fire control.
- f. Vehicles: Tatra trucks for guns of small caliber and prime movers for the heavier caliber guns. All tow vehicles reached the unit at the end 1955.

5. Unidentified Field Artillery Regiment at Khaskovo:

- a. Quarters: Barracks touching north side of the area of the Signal Regiment. The north side of the Artillery Regiment is about 100 meters from the junction of the Istanbul-Sofia-Belgrade highway and the highway to the Uzundzovo airfield.
- b. The regiment is subordinate to the unidentified Infantry Division in Khaskovo.
- c. Strength is 1,000 to 1,100 officers and men.
- d. Weapons and tow vehicles: 45 mm guns, towed by light trucks, similar to large jeeps, Steyr (German), 3-axle; ZIS 76 mm guns, towed by ZIS-15 trucks; 105 mm howitzers, towed by Tatra trucks; 122 mm (or 155 mm) howitzers towed by Opel-Blitz prime movers.

6. Mixed Engineer Regiment at Khaskovo:

- a. Quarters: Presumed to be in the barracks area which it shares with the Chemical Engineer Battalion and the Sniper Battalion, about 100 meters south of the northwest cemetery and adjacent to the east side of the road to the cemetery.

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- b. The regiment is subordinate to the unidentified Infantry Division in Khaskovo.
 - c. Strength - about 600.
 - d. Equipment: Combat engineer equipment - mines, earth-moving machinery; bridge engineer equipment - pneumatic boats painted black, pneumatic and wood boats for bridges; prefabricated parts for assembling metal bridges, and material for wooden foot bridges.
7. Parachutist Battalion at Khaskovo:
- a. Subordinate to the unidentified Infantry Division in Khaskovo. The battalion was formed in June 1955.
 - b. Strength - about 200 to 230.
 - c. Table of Organization: Three companies with three platoons of three squads each.
 - d. Weapons: Individual - submachine guns with 72-shot magazines; unit - automatic rifles.
 - e. Equipped with unidentified radio sets.
8. Sniper Battalion at Khaskovo:
- a. Quarters: In the barracks area with the ABC Battalion and perhaps the Mixed Engineer Regiment, 100 meters south of the northwest cemetery of Khaskovo.
 - b. Subordinate to the unidentified Infantry Division in Khaskovo.
 - c. Strength - about 300.
 - d. Weapons: Rifles with sniper telescopes, unidentified type.
9. The following Bulgarian Army Training Schools were reported:
- a. Noncommissioned Officer Candidate School of the Medical Corps at Ruse. Courses last eight or twelve months.
 - b. Noncommissioned Officer (Reserves) of Armored Troops at Sliven. Courses last six months.
 - c. Specialization School in Heavy Artillery for Regular Officers at Kolarovgrad.
 - d. Specialization School for Antiaircraft Artillery for Regular Officers at Kolarovgrad.
 - e. Signal School for Regular Officers and Signal Recruit Training Center at Kolarovgrad.
10. Bulgarian Air Force installation in the vicinity of Khaskovo: Uzundzovo Airfield - built 1948-1951 by labor battalions.
- a. Location: Five Kilometers north-northeast of Khaskovo, and about three kilometers east of the Istanbul-Khaskovo-Dimitrovgrad-Sofia international highway, one kilometer east of the Khaskovo-Uzundzovo provincial highway,

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2-2.5 kilometers west of the town of Uzundzovo. Airfield is located in a valley between two mountains.

- b. The airfield is about 3.5 kilometers long running west to east, and about 1,000 meters wide.
- c. Runway: From west to east; presumed length - three kilometers; width, about 80 meters; surface - square cement blocks, 2.5 meters to the side. The taxi ways and runway form a horseshoe with the opening to the east.
- d. Aircraft shelters: In the northeast, east, and south parts of the field.
- e. Control tower: In the northwest part of the field, near the entrance.
- f. Aircraft observed: 20-30 MIG-15s.

- 11. Unidentified Infantry Division at Kurdzhali: This division is subordinate to the Second Army at Plovdiv. Troops are stationed near the Yugoslav-Bulgarian border, and will fall back behind the border in the event of an emergency.

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